(e) what action has been taken against the guilty parties, Indian and foreign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Some newspaper reports have alleged that toxic wastes are being dumped in India. However, the extent of the veracity of these reports is not clear.

(d) and (e) Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests have notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these rules, import of hazardous waste from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, import of such wastes may be allowed for processing or reuse as raw materials, after examining each case on merit.

Seizure of Wild Animal Skins

403. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large haul of animal-skins, including two leopard and six wild cat skins, was seized in Delhi in the second week of December, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other seizures of animal skins, lions and other animal organs made since November, 1994; and

(d) the stesp taken to apprehend the culprits and other action taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 9-12-94, six leopard skins and 3 kg leopard bones were seized in Delhi by the Delhi Police. The offender was arrested and produced before the Magistrate.

(c) A statement listing the seizures made in Delhi since November, 1994 is attached. (*See* below)

(d) Action in these cases has been taken against the offenders under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and other relevant Acts and rules.

Statement

List of items seized in Delhi since November, 1994

Date of Seizure	Items seized	Quantity
1	2	3
19-11-94	Leopard skin full finished	2
	Leopard mounted on wooden stand . . .	1
	Leopard skin uncured	1
	Leopard skull	1
	Cut pieces of leopard skin	5
	Cut pieces of tiger skin	3

1	2	3
	Cheetal skin wet uncured	2
	Jungle cat mounted on wooden base . . .	1
	Eagle stuffed mounted on wooden stand . .	1
	Black buck horn	4 pcs
	Ibex uncurred skin	1
9-12-94	Leopard skin (uncured)	6 Nos.
	Leopa d skull & bones	3 kg.
10-1-95	Leopard skin (cured)	3 Mos.
	Leopard skin (uncured)	2 Nos.
28-1-95	Desert fox skin	796 Pcs.
	Desert cat skin	212 Pcs.
	Jungle cat skin	8 Pcs
	Domestic cat skin	2 Pcs
18-2-95	Live monkey (Rhesus monkey)	2 Nos.
19-2-95	Alaxandrine parakeet	190 Nos.
	Hill Myna	79 Nos.

Project Tiger

404. SMT. KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Project Tiger was launched in the country and how many tiger reserves were established under the project:

(b) what is the percentage of decline in tiger population since 1989 till date;

(c) what is the estimated number of tigers which have died (i) of natural death (ii) due to illness, and (iii) killed by poachers;

(d) whether any critical review of Operation Tiger has been made to know how far the project has achieved the object;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Project Tiger was launched in 1973 with the establishment of 9 (nine) tiger reserves. The number of re-reserves has now risen to 23 (twenty three) over 14 states.

(b) The census figure for tiger was 3750 in 1993 as against 4334 in 1989 showing a decline of 12·7 per cent since 1989.

(c) Due to the elusive nature of wild animals and presence of scavenging animals in the forests, the carcasses of free ranging tigers that die